



# *National Guard* *State Partnership Program*

**Senior Leader Quotes**  
**January – March 2014**



**Defense Minister Reinsalu**

# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

## **Estonian Defense Minister Urmas Reinsalu, at CSIS event 6 January 2014:**

- “First, I’m very proud that among us are two helicopter pilots from the Estonian Air Forces who have served in Afghanistan with US troops, who now serve in the Maryland National Guard. I truly welcome you here.”
- “ ... [US] presence could be produced in the most cost effective ways especially in our region. We would very much appreciate in coming times that we will be on the agenda for alliances and bilateral cooperation.”



# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

## **North Dakota Lt Gov Drew Wrigley at North Dakota/Ghana 10 Year Anniversary, January 2014:**

- "This endeavor began ten years ago as a military partnership and has spread to healthcare, business and economic partnerships. Later this month, another delegation will visit from North Dakota that will bring experts in the fields of industry, trade, and agriculture. They will reach out to the people of Ghana in an effort to enhance the value to this State Partnership Program."



**Lt Gov Wrigley**



# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

## **Montenegrin Chief of Defense Vice Admiral Dragan Samardzic, February 2014:**

- “The Armed Forces of Montenegro consider cooperation with the National Guard of Maine as well as the cooperation with the U.S. Armed Forces in general, very meaningful and of extraordinary quality. A large number of bilateral activities have been aimed at increasing capabilities of the Armed Forces of Montenegro for achieving necessary standards for a full NATO membership.”



**Admiral Samardzic**



# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

**Representative Richard Nugent** during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 28 January 2014:

- “Deployments of National Guard resources are a plus for those Guardsman, because of particularly, on the training aspect of it, it gives them the ability to learn their tradecraft better, particularly for our aviation assets. (Question posed to Michael Lumpkin, Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Policy): Do you see National Guard rotations to PACOM [being utilized] to assist, obviously the National Guard, but to assist in the mission of PACOM?”



**Rep. Nugent**





# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

## **Representative Tammy Duckworth** during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 28 January 2014:



**Rep. Duckworth**

- “I think [PACOM strategic vision for SPP] will be very insightful, especially [because of] the unique capabilities of those National Guard troops. You know, the average Guardsman out of Hawaii – that are second generation Filipinos – can meld very easily into the cultures of the Philippines similarly with other nations in the Asia-Pacific region. And I think, as we look to increase trade, increase our participation in the Asia-Pacific region, they [the National Guard] will be a critical resource.”



# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

**Vice Admiral Frank Craig Pandolfe,**  
Director, JCS J5, written response to  
Rep. Tammy Duckworth:



**Vice Admiral Pandolfe**

- “The vision for the SPP in the Asia-Pacific is to reassure our allies through increased presence at nominal cost. Public announcement of new SPP partnerships over the next several years will demonstrate increased U.S. engagement in the Pacific. SPP will help build our partners’ capabilities and capacity to respond to natural and man-made disasters and help strengthen collaboration on regional security interests... across the Asia-Pacific Region, this program plays a valuable role in achieving the goals and objectives of the PACOM Theater Security Cooperation Plan.”



# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

**Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel,**  
during a House Armed Services  
Committee hearing, 6 March 2014:

- “Those [SPP] relationships continue to be very strong. It will continue to be strong. It’s been very effective and we look forward to find ways to broaden and expand it.”



**SecDef Hagel**





# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*



**General Martin Dempsey**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 6 March 2014:

- “We reflect the support of the program [SPP] in the [FY2015] budget. In fact, just this last week there were two more nations entered in to the SPP. It’s a very effective program.”



**GEN Dempsey**



**Admiral Locklear**

# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

**Admiral James Locklear,**  
Commander, US Pacific  
Command, during a House Armed  
Services Committee hearing, 5  
March, 2014:

- “They provide some capabilities and capacities that are important to the AOR so we’re very appreciative of them. We have seven State Partnership Programs in my AOR. There are some areas we’d like to grow those in.”



**GEN Rodriguez**

# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

- General David M. Rodriguez,**  
Commander, US Africa Command,  
during a House Armed Services  
Committee hearing, 5 March 2014:
- "We have eight states that are in the State Partnership Program. They perform a great role in building relationships as well as building capacity of our partners. We have just expanded North Dakota from one [partner] country to three and we're also putting more requests in to have a couple more SPPs. So they've been a long-term benefit to us in AFRICOM."



# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*

**General John F. Kelly**, Commander, US Southern Command, Senate Armed Services Committee written testimony, submitted 6 March 2014:

- “We rely heavily on the National Guard’s State Partnership Program to conduct our activities.”



**GEN Kelly**





# *Senior Leaders Praise SPP*



**General Frank Gorenc**, Commander, USAFE, AFAFRICA, Defense News article, 10 March 2014:

- “We started a program called State Partnership Program, where [Air National] Guard units develop a relationship with some of the partners in Europe, and that program works really well. So that model got basically transposed to Africa. There are eight [SPP partnerships] that are active in Africa, and they’re developing a relationship. Those little steps go a long way, and quite honestly, those little steps in a country that has a fledgling air force allows them to make enormous gains.”



**GEN Gorenc**





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